What is claimed is:

1.     A method of determining if a use of a particular unit is fraudulent comprising
5    the steps of,
       monitoring the use of said particular unit, for a plurality of times that said unit is
       used, to collect statistics concerning the use of said particular unit over a time
       period having a specific length to establish a normal usage pattern for said
       particular unit, said pattern being established over a plurality of uses of said unit,
10   determining if more than a predetermined deviation exits between the use of said
       unit during a second period of time and said normal usage pattern,
       taking a first type of action if said deviation is below a first value,
       taking a second type of action if said deviation is above said first value.

15   2.     A method for preventing unauthorized use of a particular unit comprising the
       steps of,
       monitoring the use of said particular unit to collect statistics to establish a normal
       pattern of use of said particular unit, said pattern of use and said monitoring
       covering a first period of time having a specific length and covering a plurality of
20   times said unit is used,
       determining if there is more than a predetermined deviation between the use of said
       particular unit and said normal pattern of use during a second period of time having
       a length equal to said specific length,
       taking a first type of action if said deviation is below a first value,
25   taking a second type of action if said deviation is above said first value.

3.     A computerized system for preventing fraudulent use of a particular item,
       first means which monitors use of said particular item to collect statistics over a first
       period of time having a specific length to establish a normal pattern of use of said
30   particular item, said specific length covering a plurality of uses of said item,

second means which determines if there is more than a particular amount of deviation between use of said particular item during a second period having a length equal to said specific length and said normal pattern of use,

whereby a first type of action is taken if said deviation is below a first value, and a

5    second type of action if said deviation is above said first value.

4.      The system recited in claim 3 wherein said first means is a computer program,

10   5.      The system recited in claim 3 wherein said second means is a computer program.

6.      The method recited in claim 1 wherein said statistics are collected by a computer program.

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7.      The method recited in claims 1 wherein said determining step is done by a programmed computer.

8.      The method in claim 2 wherein said unauthorized use is fraudulent.

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9.      The method recited in claim 2 wherein said collecting and determining are performed by a programmed digital computer.

10.    A method of providing security for a particular item including,

25   monitoring use of said particular item to collect statistics over a first period of time having a particular length to establish a normal pattern of use of said particular item, said pattern covering a plurality of uses of said item,

determining if there is more than a predetermined deviation between the use of said particular item during a second period of time having a length equal to said

30   particular length and said normal pattern of use,
taking a first type of action if said deviation is below a first value,

taking a second type of action if said deviation is above said first value.